

Vision 21 Implementation Committee  
Minutes, August 22, 2002 – Amended and adopted Aug. 29, 2002

Members present: Martin Greco, Joe Greene, Matt Hausmann, Tim Higgins, Sara Oaklander, Meg O'Brien, Jennifer Page, Barry Winston

Members absent: Bill Hofmann, Ralph Jones, Paul Solomon

Observers: Barbara Brown, Bill Engstrom

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairperson, Jennifer Page. Two sets of minutes were reviewed. Minutes from August 1, 2002 were approved as amended, adopting changes outlined in the minutes of August 8, 2002. Minutes of August 8, 2002 were amended and approved; the amendment proposed adding at the end of Section 2.4 the following sentence: "However, the VIC has not yet reached consensus on this." In connection therewith, a brief discussion of the role of the Vision Implementation Committee and the "planning workgroups" in reporting took place. This discussion will be resumed at a future time in order to reach consensus on this important topic.

2. Jennifer Page had no further progress to report on the planning role of this Committee until the Selectmen write a "charge" for the two areas which they have adopted, business and economic development, and public information and communication.

3.0 Continued planning for the three forums, a first step in the "Business Friendly" initiative was the primary focus of the meeting

3.1 Six members of the Committee reported back on their conversations with local business people about the forums. Most business owners prefer an evening forum but several would like a morning forum. A number were pleased to be invited to give their opinions. Several voiced skepticism about the outcome.

3.2 Clint Knight, Watertown-Belmont Chamber of Commerce, will write a column in the local paper inviting business people to participate in the forums.

3.3 The evening forums are scheduled for the Chenery Community Room. The morning session is tentatively scheduled for the Library at 8:30-10:30 a.m. This is a generous gesture of Library personnel. However, the Committee felt that an earlier time, ideally 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., that would enable local business people to attend and then go to their businesses for normal start of business, would be desirable. Two options were offered. The first was to host the forum at the VFW, sponsored by the Kiwanis. The second was to use the Senior Center at Our Lady's Parish Center. Joe Greene will investigate the first, and Bill Engstrom the second, and report to Jennifer Page by Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. If the Senior Center is viable, it is the preferred site, followed by the VFW, with the Town Hall a last choice because of its poor acoustics.

3.4 The flyer for the forums received a number of suggested edits that will be completed by tomorrow, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Suggestions included the need to include commercial property owners in the invitation, wordsmithing and minor formatting changes.

It was suggested that after the forums take place, and the Committee has gathered information from business people in Belmont, that it document how other neighboring communities permit and work with businesses. Alternatively, this could be done by a volunteer work-group that we hope will emerge from

the business forums and the public forum on businesses.

3.5 A plan to distribute the flyers was developed. Initially, we thought to use Coles Criss Cross Directory of Belmont. In the end, the way chosen was to identify all areas in Belmont with commercial establishments and to ask Committee members to volunteer to distribute flyers there. All members present volunteered for assignments. Jennifer will contact those not present (except for Tim Higgins, a town employee) with possible assignments. Additionally, our visitor Mr. Engstrom volunteered to do some leafletting if necessary.

3.6 Next steps for the next meeting on August 29, 2002

- Need to identify commercial property owners and invite them to the forums if in the local Belmont area.
- Finalize and print flyers, begin distribution.
- Finalize Food and logistics for forums.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07.

Meg O'Brien  
Secretary Pro Tem